

A NEW SPECIES OF *MICROEDUS* FROM THE SIERRA  
NEVADA MOUNTAINS (COLEOPTERA:  
STAPHYLINIDAE)

IAN MOORE AND E. F. LEGNER<sup>1</sup>

Division of Biological Control, College of Biological and Agricultural  
Sciences, Citrus Research Center and Agricultural Experiment  
Station, University of California, Riverside, 92502

ABSTRACT

*Microedus giulianii* n.sp. is described from Big Pine Creek, Inyo Co., California, 8,500 ft. elev. The species is illustrated and a key is provided to distinguish it from the 6 previously known species.

The genus *Microedus* is easily distinguished from members of the tribe Anthophagini by the size and shape of the last segment of the maxillary palpus which is shorter and narrower than the penultimate segment and has the sides straight and nearly parallel (Moore 1966). The genus was erected for *M. austinianus* LeConte (1874). Until now it included 6 species, all of which were treated in Hatch (1957). Hatch said, "These insects live on sand bars and gravel bars by streams, frequently in the mountains." The following key is adapted from Hatch (1957):

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *MICROEDUS*

1. Pronotum and elytra with the entire lateral margin broadly, strongly, widely reflexed ..... *fenderi* Hatch
- 1'. Pronotum explanate only toward the hind angles ..... 2
- 2(1'). Male with sixth abdominal sternite broadly emarginate behind ..... *giulianii* Moore and Legner, n.sp.
- 2'. Male with sixth abdominal sternite straight along the posterior margin 3
- 3(2'). Elytra evidently more than twice as long as pronotum ..... *laticollis* (Mannerheim)
- 3'. Elytra not, or only slightly, more than twice as long as pronotum ..... 4
- 4(3'). Elytra not less than twice as long as pronotum ..... 5
- 4'. Elytra less than twice as long as pronotum ..... 6
- 5(4). Elytra obscurely punctured ..... *rogersi* Hatch
- 5'. Elytra evidently punctured ..... *austinianus* LeConte
- 6(4'). Elytra rufo-piceous; legs rufo-testaceous ..... *porteri* Hatch
- 6'. Elytra rufous strongly infused with testaceous on disc; legs testaceous ..... *ewingi* Hatch

*Microedus giulianii* MOORE AND LEGNER, NEW SPECIES

*Holotype, male*.—Color dark piceous except elytra very slightly paler centrally, apices of coxae, trochanters, tibiae, tarsi, mouthparts, and anten-

<sup>1</sup>Staff Research Associate and Associate Professor of Biological Control, respectively.

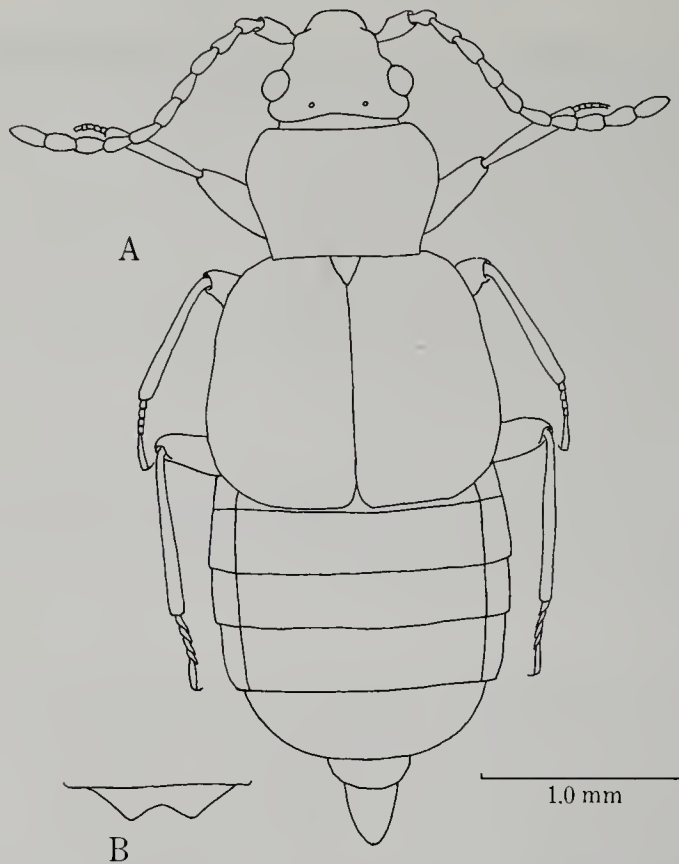


Fig. 1: *Microedus giulianii* Moore & Legner, holotype male; A) dorsal view; B) apex of sixth ventral abdominal segment.

nae rufo-piceous.

*Head*: as wide as long; clypeal impression strong; nuchal constriction and antecellar impressions moderately strong. Surface strongly finely microreticulate above and beneath, set with fine sparse pubescence. Eyes prominent. Tempora not as prominent as and a little more than half as long as eyes. Antennae filiform, the segments all longer than wide, the first segment thickest, about twice as long as wide, the second shorter and a little narrower than first, the third a little longer and narrower than second, the fourth a little shorter and about as wide as third, the fourth through tenth of about equal

length and each just perceptibly wider than the preceding, the eleventh slightly longer than tenth, gradually obtusely pointed in apical half.

*Pronotum*: seven-tenths as long as wide, apex four-fifths as wide as base, apical and basal margins nearly straight, angles very narrowly rounded, sides strongly rounded in front, thence narrowed and nearly straight to base. Sides rather narrowly and not strongly explanate in basal half, with a faint central longitudinal groove for most of its length. Surface very finely sparsely punctured, densely and finely reticulate. Pubescence similar to that of head.

*Elytra*: conjointly one-fifth wider than long, twice as long as pronotum, reaching to posterior margin of first visible tergite, widest near apical third, sides nearly straight but diverging in basal two-thirds, thence broadly rounded into apex; inner apical angles very narrowly rounded. Surface evidently but somewhat shallowly punctured, punctures separated by less than their diameters; finely densely reticulate. Pubescence similar to that of head and pronotum.

*Abdomen*: as wide and as long as elytra, a little more finely and less densely punctured than elytra. Pubescence similar to that of foreparts. Beneath sculptured very similar to upper surface. Sixth sternite with posterior margin with an oval emargination in the central third not quite as deep as wide.

*Length*: 4.0mm.

*Female*: posterior margin of sixth sternite arcuate.

*Holotype male*: South Fork of Big Pine Creek, Inyo County, California, 8500', under rocks by creek, July 10, 1971, Derham Giuliani collector. In California Academy of Sciences. *Allotype female* same data as holotype. *Paratypes*: 1 male and 1 female same data as holotype; 1 male and 1

female from Bishop Creek, Inyo County, California, 8500', under rocks by creek, Derham Giuliani collector.

Some specimens have the legs entirely rufo-testaceous. This species is most similar to *austinianus* but can be distinguished easily by the emarginate sixth sternite of the male and by the sides of the pronotum not being sinuate before the hind angles as in that species.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- HATCH, M. H. 1957. Beetles of the Pacific Northwest. Part II. Staphyliniformia. Univ. Washington Publ. Biol. 16:i-x, 1-384; 37 plates.
- LE CONTE, J. L. 1874. [descriptions of new species] *In*, E. P. Austin: Catalogue of the Coleoptera of Mt. Washington, N. H. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. 16:265-276.
- MOORE, I. 1966. Notes on the Nearctic Anthophagini with a key to the genera (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae). *Coleopt. Bull.* 20:47-56; 22 figs.

#### BOOK REVIEW

*An island called California, an ecological introduction to its natural communities* by Elna Bakker with photographs by Philip Hyde. 1971. University of California Press, 2223 Fulton Street, Berkeley, Cal. 94720. 357p., 24 line fig., numerous photos. Cloth, \$10.00

This is a beautifully produced book with a broad coverage of natural history subjects. The diversity in California ecology is equalled in few areas of the U.S. Such a book will do much to orient the non-Californian as well as suggest new ideas and approaches for field work. Coleopterists who contemplate collecting trips to this State will find their efforts better rewarded by advanced reading of this book.—(R. E. Woodruff)

### A NOTE ON *PARACOTALPA DESERTA* SAYLOR (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: RUTELINAE)

ALAN R. HARDY

Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside

#### ABSTRACT

*Paracotalpa deserta* Saylor is a rare species found in the Colorado Desert region of California and Baja California, Mexico. Specimens were collected in an area of *Larrea* and *Franseria*, and many were impaled on spines of the latter, possibly by shrikes. Known distributional data is summarized.

*Paracotalpa deserta* Saylor (1940:195) is a rarely collected species which has, as indicated by the recent date of description, escaped detec-